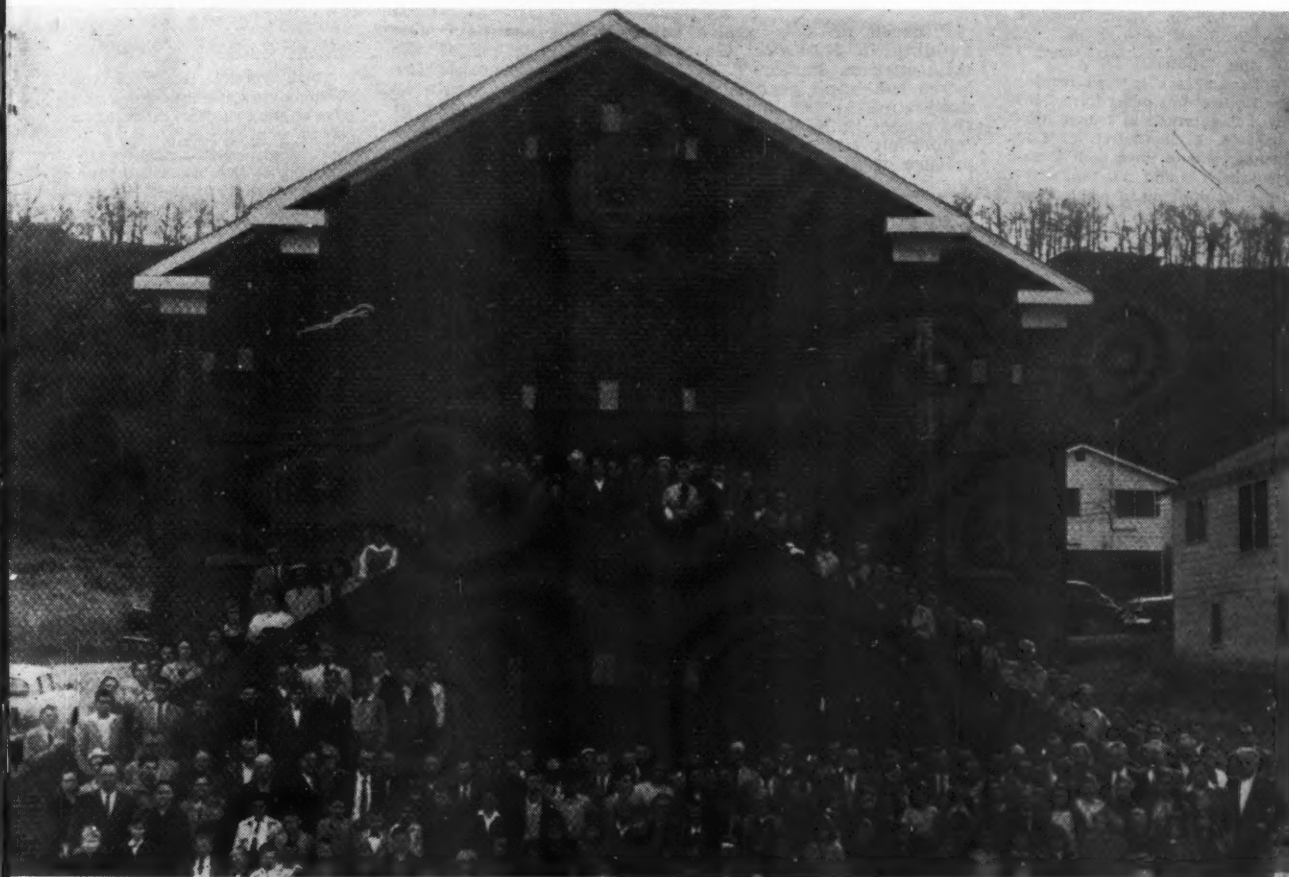


Church of God

April 2, 1956

Evangel



Spring Consecration Issue

"SPRING BEAUTY FOR ASHES"

By Cleo Watts

*Other articles on prayer, fasting
and Bible reading*



the Readers' response

To the Editor:

I am keeping every Evangel issue during 1956. The issues we have received so far are the best we have ever had. I have learned more and have gotten more out of the Evangel's lately than I ever had in all the time since I have been taking the paper. We first subscribed in 1915 and I have never missed an issue since that time.

Mrs. H. C. Stuart
Erwin, North Carolina

To the Editor:

I have always enjoyed reading the Evangel but never have I enjoyed it as much as I have during 1956. Each Church of God member should have each Evangel issue. I would not take anything for mine and I am looking forward to those that are to follow. I am on a rural route and sometimes my Evangel is a few days late. When this happens, I really miss it. I am not one who just subscribes to the paper, but I read it each week. As long as I can remember, I have had the Evangel before me. My mother and father, Reverend and Mrs. J. A. Hanvey of Spartanburg, South Carolina, always received the Evangel and I have received it in my home for the last 22 years.

(Rev.) Carl V. Hanvey
Chauncey, Illinois

To the Editor:

My husband subscribed to the Evangel in 1912. He was taking it when we married in 1915 and it has been coming to our home since that time. We have never missed a copy through all these years and it has been a real blessing to me many times. I have given it to hospital patients and have asked them to read it, telling them what a blessing it is. Then, when I came back to visit them again I have had many of them to tell me: "While I was suffering and there was no one to pray for me, I laid the paper you gave me on my body and asked the Lord to help me, and the pain left my body."

Mrs. Ruth Miller
Rome, Georgia

• Many testimonies come to us concerning those who are healed by laying the EVANGEL on their bodies and praying. There is no healing virtue in the EVANGEL, but it does serve to inspire the faith of the reader, and that faith brings healing.—Editor.

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Coming Next Week "MACEDONIAN CALL ISSUE"

COVER PICTURE

Pictured on this week's cover is the beautiful new building in Rossville, Georgia, with a portion of the congregation. Pastor T. F. Harper can be seen at the lower left-hand corner. The picture does not begin to do justice to the beautiful structure which is one of the nicest in North Georgia. Turn to page 11 for a full report on the church work there and for an interior picture of the building.

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To the Editor:

I am glad to say that I have been a subscriber to the Evangel from the very first issue. In fact, we were subscribing while it had the temporary name "Evening Light and Church of God Evangel." I remember very vividly what it taught about sanctification, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, the Church of God and divine healing. The Evangel is next to my Bible in reading matter.

Mrs. Alonzo Gann
Hixson, Tennessee

• The EVANGEL was known as the "Evening Light and Church of God Evangel" from March, 1910 to March, 1911. Since then, it has been known by its present name.—Editor.

To the Editor:

These special issues of the Evangel are quite interesting and give a great deal of information as to our history. I came in contact with the Evangel or Evening Light in 1910 in Elhanan, North Carolina, in Mattie Perry's orphanage. I joined the Church in 1912 and have been a subscriber to the Evangel ever since. In passing through Cleveland, I would help fold the Evangel before they had folding machines. I have enjoyed the paper in these passing years, and it has been a great help to me.

(Rev.) P. F. Fritz
Carrier Mills, Illinois

To the Editor:

I do not agree with the way you have explained the greater works that Jesus said the disciples would do (February 25). Remember that Jesus cleansed the leper, healed the dead, cast out devils, healed all manner of disease, and gave his disciples power to do many things. Remember, however, that He never laid hands on anyone and they received the Holy Ghost, but said He would send the Holy Ghost to His disciples and all that believe. Paul laid his hands on believers and they received the Holy Ghost, so I feel that this is the greater works Jesus promised that His disciples would do. It is greater to receive the Holy Ghost than anything else in the world.

Sarah York
Lexington, North Carolina

To the Editor:

This is to tell you that I am thoroughly enjoying the Evangel. I like the new policy in featuring something different each week. I think it is the best it has ever been.

(Rev.) Hurschel L. Diffie
Phoenix, Arizona



Having the Mind of Christ

By
David
Suleiman

SINCE THE TIME of Sigmund Freud, a pioneer in psychological theories, much emphasis has been laid on the human mind and its importance as related to the total individual behavior. The mind is a powerful mechanism. It is the center for all our daily activities—the headquarters of our movements.

Let me ask you a simple question. Do you have the mind of Christ? Allow me to say that I may be in the position to know how you would react to a question like this. You see, I was puzzled and bewildered when I asked myself that question. You may be asking yourself, "What is the mind of Christ?" or "How can I know if I have the mind of Christ?" Well, let us turn to the Word of God and see if we can find an answer.

The Mind of Christ Is One That Discerns All Things.

The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:15, "But he that is spiritual judgeth (discerneth) all things . . ." Today, the Church is going through a period of trial. Daily, we entangle and meet different types of people. Some are honest, but others come to us as *wolves in sheep's clothing*, who will try their best to destroy and deceive the saints of God.

You may think it is foolish for me to dream of a perfect Church on earth—a Church in which only pure and holy people are members. Yes, that would be foolish of me, if I were to accept that assumption; but that is not my intention. Even the early Church had in its midst people who were unholy and unchristian in character. We all agree that wherever one finds the genuine, also, he is bound to find the counterfeit. Satan's duty is to imitate the real power of God.

Now we come to the next step—to answer a very possible question: Where does the mind of Christ fit into the picture? The verse quoted leaves a beautiful

picture in our imaginations. We are made to know that, if we are spiritual, we can judge (discern) all things; yes, we can discern even the vile tricks of the enemy.

How can we obtain the mind of Christ? We can obtain the mind of Christ through the reading of God's Word, through consecration, dedication and close walk with Him. We can pray and ask God for wisdom. We have that right just as much as the right to ask the Lord to give us any of His other gifts. James, the Lord's brother, once said: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him," James 1:5.

We, the Pentecostals, have witnessed a great movement of unrest and shifting in the past few years. Some of these movements were led by men who were unchristian in all their acts, yet they were able to have a great following. This movement was repeated over and over again in many cities, and many of our churches suffered a great loss. You may wonder how ungodly leaders can deceive many men and women.

I really do believe that some of these people who left the Mother Churches and followed *false prophets* were actually honest and sincere people. No doubt, they were searching for greater truth or for more of an outpouring of God's Spirit, but they were deceived. Why were they deceived? Because they did not have the mind of Christ; also, because, at times, we have failed to feed our people on the genuine Word of God.

The Mind of Christ Does Not Make Us Double-minded.

There is a great danger in Christianity today—the danger from those that cannot make up their minds to serve the Lord. You have seen them in your local churches. Some pastors and evangelists have watched that group

(Continued on page 9)



APRIL

*Always the month of April fills
All of our world with coloured thrills
Leaves on a tree on a low green hill
And crocus blooms where the sun lies still.
Always with eager hands she spills
Poems of gold on the daffodils,
And back of the miracles we see
Is the caring of God for you and me.*

*Even the rain in April sings,
Even the blue in a pair of wings,
And oh, the beauty of song that's heard
In the magical singing of a bird.
Even the bell in a snowdrop rings
Of tiny dreams of lovely things.
Even the chords in a weary heart
Sing with the wonder flowers impart!*

Isobel McFadden
contemporary Canadian

STUDY YOUR BIBLE

By W. D. Polen
Laurel, Mississippi

FIVE DAYS OF EVERY WEEK, seven hours a day for eight or nine months each year and for twelve years of each life, over twenty-eight million boys and girls from six to twenty years of age attend schools of learning. Scattered through some eighteen thousand institutions of higher learning, twenty-four thousand eager-brained students scramble for knowledge.

You probably will not remember these figures for any length of time, but I gave them to you so that you may visualize that the people of these United States have a vision for the scholastic needs of their youth. If, therefore, these people in the various secular walks of life have such a clear vision for the needs of their youth, how much more of a vision ought Christians to have for the spiritual welfare of their youth? We all want, and expect, to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, but how can we do so if we first do not study the Word of God? We must study the Scriptures thoroughly if we are to be used successfully for the Master.

WHY SHOULD YOU STUDY YOUR BIBLE?

The great Apostle Paul, in writing his second letter to his son Timothy (in the Lord) said to him, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." This great Apostle, after his conversion on the Damascus Road, went into the land of Arabia where he studied the Scriptures for fourteen years. Is it any wonder, then, that the Lord was able to use him so effectively?

Paul instructed Timothy to study, because he fully realized the problems which this young evangelist would have to face. Paul admonished him to study the Scriptures in order that he might be a workman for God which would not have to be ashamed of his Bible knowledge. Too many Christians in this day will not take their stand for the whole Bible rightly divided because they have failed to put forth the effort to first find out just what it definitely teaches. Are you one of them? Did you know that out of the eighty-one million people in these United States who claim to be church members only

seventeen per cent of them have read the Bible from cover to cover? Is it any wonder then that of all the ministers in this country only thirty-eight per cent of them believe that the Bible is wholly inspired of God? The other sixty-two per cent contend that the Bible of which Paul tells Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," is filled with legends, and mythical short stories. Are you still of the opinion that you need not study your Bible? We must do as the greatest Teacher of all time has vindicated in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify of me."

HOW SHOULD YOU STUDY YOUR BIBLE?

First of all, read your Bible all the way through. This will give you a glimpse of what knowledge God has placed in your hands for study. Then begin a simple study of the New Testament books in which you will see God's simple plan of salvation for all. In your beginning studies of the Scriptures, you will read much of the Bible which will not be clearly revealed to you at first. However, do not become alarmed for the Lord will show you what His Word contains as you continue to apply yourself in study and meditation. The Holy Ghost has promised to lead and guide us into all truth, and the truth will always set us free.

Next, investigate the riches in the harmony of the four Gospels. Study them together comparing the events in the life of Christ as each gospel writer unveils this wonderful King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There are several things, however, which you should keep in mind as you study. They are:

1. Know the writer of each book.
2. Find the time each book was written.
3. Learn to whom each book was written.
4. Learn why each book was written and the circumstances under which it was written.
5. Know the customs, and dress of the peoples concerned in the book.
6. Find who is talking about what you are reading. See whether it is God, man or the Devil.

From here, in your study of the books of the Bible, make an outlined study of each book, adding meat to your skeleton as you progress in your study. Commentaries, Bible helps, concordances, and good reliable books are very helpful at times; but, first of all in your study, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He will lead you in the paths for His name's sake. Various Bible translations will enlighten your path as you study the Word.

WHEN SHOULD YOU STUDY YOUR BIBLE?

In the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 17:11, it is written, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." In Matthew 4:4 Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth

out of the mouth of God." We all know the need of daily nourishment for our living bodies. Should we not, therefore, daily nourish our souls with the Word of God if we wish to keep them alive? If we were to eat just one or two meals on Sunday or one meal on Wednesday night or, as some do about their spiritual food, not at all, how large would be the population in each community? Certainly there would be a "valley of dry bones." Each of us must not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as we see the end of this age appearing, and we must take time each day to gather the manna of His Word for our spiritual growth. God has promised to supply the needs of each of us—one day at a time, no more, no less.

WHERE SHOULD YOU STUDY YOUR BIBLE?

You should study your Bible wherever the opportunity presents itself. There is one very important thing to think of at this moment, however, and that is this: begin each day with a portion of God's Word to give you guidance for the day. Then, as you prepare for your night's rest, do not forget to take time for meditation of His word. You will rest better, and your dreams will be sweeter. Another thought right here is—would not this be a more wonderful place in which to live if every man, woman, boy and girl would replace that old package of cigarettes with a copy of God's Word in pocket or purse? Tobacco will tear down your health, but God's Word will give you life, health and happiness for ever and ever. *Try it today. See for yourself what God can do for you.* "These things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."





Photo by A. Devaney

Spring Beauty for Ashes

By Cleo Watts

Pastor, South Cleveland, Tennessee

"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations," Isaiah 61:3, 4.

SPRING IS THE TIME when Nature begins to put on new life. Animals that have been hibernating, stretch themselves, and wake from their winter slumbers. Birds return from the South. Trees that shed their old leaves put on new ones. Flowers bloom again. The farmer begins to plant his crops.

All Nature is astir with new life and new prospects with a new outlook on life. The old is transplanted by the new. The old life is lost in the new life. Spring has come.

Last fall I noticed the neighbor across the street carrying leaves in a basket and putting them on his garden in the back yard. The leaves were still falling from the trees as he was gathering them. He covered the entire garden with old leaves.

Then came the rains, the snow, and cold winds from the North. The Sun hid his face from the earth. The Frost bit the ground and the living plants, and they began to die.

The leaves began to rot as the cold, wet, days and weeks and months passed. Nature was going through the process of death. Death reigned as king for three months. The old life was motionless. Nature was wrapped in gloom and inactivity.

Of a sudden, there was a radical change. The sun, on March 21, crossed the equator and started northward. As it traveled northward, its rays struck the northern countries more directly each day. The weather grew steadily warmer.

The Sun rose with healing in his wings. The warm sunbeams resuscitated all Nature. The birds felt the change and began to sing. The rooster crowed more vociferously. Sounds were more keen; the farmer calling his hogs was heard in the far distance. The lowing of the cows and the bleating of the sheep echoed from the hill side. All life was revived and put on new hopes. Winter passed; spring came.

The leaves on the garden had rotted and become *ashes*. Can these leaves live again? Can any good thing come out of their death? Nay, not in themselves. The neighbor must plant a new seed, a new germ of life. The soil, also, must be good and rich with the minerals of earth. The rotten leaves furnish the soil with the minerals and vitamins.

When the new life is implanted in the soil, it lays hold on the minerals, deposited by the decay of the leaves, and sublimates the old life into a new life. Then, *ashes are turned into beauty*.

Christ is the Seed, new Life, implanted in the soul that brings forth fruit unto God. The seed is planted; the good soil with the right sunshine causes it to germinate. There must be the right climatic conditions for it to germinate. Some seeds lie in the wrong soil without the right amount of sunshine for years without germinating. A good heart and a humble faith make the good soil. The sunshine is the warmth of the Spirit.

After the new life comes forth, there is the process

of the growth. *The beauty of the new life and fruitfulness of the new life is dependent on the subsequent care that it is given.*

A Corn of Wheat

Jesus said, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit," John 12:24. The Lord, I am sure, was speaking of His death. The natural life of our Lord had to die in order to save the Church. There is a lesson of multiplication here: The one grain of corn is put into the ground, but, when it rots and comes forth, there is produced hundreds of grains just like the one that was sown.

We must die in order to multiply, the old self must be crucified, killed out to self-seeking and fleshly desires. The old life must decompose for the new life to rise. The husk of self-pleasure must rot for the life of God's pleasure to come forth. There is an exchange made—the old for the new. However, there is a profit made; the new is multiplied. I have exchanged my guilt for God's pardon, my sin for God's holiness; my way for God's way, my possession for God's inheritance. Lord, let me die that I may multiply!

Walk in Newness of Life

"For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin," Romans 6:5, 6.

"Should walk in newness of life," is contingent on our consecration and the care that we give the new life. The knowledge of how we are justified is absolutely necessary for a new walk. The old walk was out of step with God; the new walk must be in step with God. How can we be in step with God? We must see ourselves as God sees us; we must reckon as God reckons. We must reckon (acknowledge as an absolute fact) that we are dead with Christ and raised with Him. The Judge of all the earth declared us legally dead with our Substitute, Christ.

We are not to hope that we are dead or seek to be dead, but reckon ourselves to be dead. Notice Romans 6:11, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God." There was no *hope* so with the Apostle Paul but an absolute *know* so.

In justification, God has cleared us of all connection with the old man. Now, in our walk and attitude we must clear ourselves, by the power of the Holy Ghost, of all connection with the old man. The new man must take the place of the old man. We must mark the old man off your lists of associates and take Christ as your new Partner. Let us walk in newness of life.

Put Off the Flesh.

The word *flesh* is used in three different ways in the Bible: It is used as the material body (2 Corinthians 10:3); it is used as meat that we eat (Romans 14:21), and it is used as a synonym of human nature. The latter use is what the Apostle Paul meant when he said "make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof," Romans 13:14.

The greatest battle the Christian has is with the flesh—human nature. The human nature is not destroyed

(Continued on page 9)



Matthew 9:15, "... Then shall they fast."

JESUS WAS ASKED why His disciples did not fast. He answered, "Because I am with them. But when I am taken away, then shall they fast." In Matthew 6:16, Jesus says, "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." If we follow His way, He makes it plain that we will have a reward laid up in heaven where there will be neither thieves nor moths.

There are certain riches to be had that come only through prayer and fasting; there are certain victories to be won only through prayer and fasting; there are certain devils that only prayer and fasting will move. Mark 9:29, "And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting." If in your home there is a loved one whose heart is hardened by the Devil and you would like to see him saved, go before God in earnest prayer and fasting. Jesus is our example, He fasted as many as forty days at one time. History states that He did this in order to gain victory over the Devil. Thanks be to God, He gained that victory, and God anointed Him with power to preach the gospel. In Psalm 109:24, "My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh falleth of fatness." He was lean in body and weak in knees, but He was strong in the spirit with gracious words proceeding out of His mouth.

Do you feel cold and indifferent? Do you feel that the Bible does not inspire you as it once did, but you still have a desire to be a blessing to the cause of Christ? Well, then, the only remedy is a deeper consecration. A deeper consecration will come when you sanctify a fast (Joel 2:15), which means to set aside a certain period of time for fasting. Do not make the period too long the first time, for, in your temptation, you might break your vow. There is real suffering in fasting, but, through the suffering of the body, the soul is affected. It is true that when you fast, you will have a headache and feel weak and faint, but fasting humbles your spirit. You will think of Jesus and His suffering; a tear will come into your eyes. You can get close to heaven through tears. Humble your heart before God and He will lift you up. How shall I humble my heart? As Jesus did in Psalm 35:13, "I humbled my soul with fasting." Through fasting and suffering, Jesus was humbled and learned the lesson of obedience. Hebrews 5:7, 8, "Who, in the days of his flesh ... offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though

Reward for

FASTING

*By Albert H. Batts
Pastor, Norfolk, Virginia*

He were a Son, yet learned he obedience, by the things which he suffered."

* Who will answer the roaring giant and challenge the flesh? Who will dare take upon himself the ministry of this suffering? Did I hear someone say, "Here am I, send me"? Go thou, and God will go with thee and bless thee; and may you return with joy, bringing in the sheaves.

MANY CHRISTIANS will say, "I am waiting for God to lay the fast on me." These people seldom fast. Jesus said, "My disciples will fast."

In the days of Esther, war was declared against the Jews. Esther called for a three-day fast for victory. The enemy was hanged on the gallows built for a Jew, and peace was declared in favor of the Jews. My Friends, it pays to fast and pray.

Through the ministry of Jonah, thousands were saved because they believed the message of God and went on their knees in fasting and prayer. The King of Nineveh called this fast. The people fasted for three days and nights, and were highly rewarded.

In the days of Daniel, there were many perplexing problems—hard sentences, dreams, visions, handwriting on the wall, and prophecies—that only a man close to God could comprehend. Daniel separated himself from the dainties and the drinks of the day that were questionable, and he set his heart to seeking God through fasting. This fast continued for twenty-one days. The angel of God came down and said, "O Daniel, I am come to give you skill and understanding"—a man greatly beloved.

Do you have perplexing problems? Try fasting and prayer. Fasting and prayer is also an answer to the need of a revival. The first people, that we have any record of, who received the Holy Ghost fasted about seven days, Acts 1:14.

Paul fasted three days and nights and received the Blessing. Cornelius desired the Blessing. He prayed to God always and gave much alms to the needy. One day he tried fasting, giving and praying. That very day, about three in the afternoon, the angel of the Lord came down and said, "Cornelius, your prayer is heard; send for Peter." Peter came and preached a gospel message. The power fell and the household of Cornelius received the Holy Ghost, "For we heard them speak with tongues." Amen.

IN ONE CHURCH where I pastored, a man had been seeking the Blessing for over two years. One Thursday morning he decided to fast for the Holy Ghost. The following Saturday night about eleven-thirty he received the Blessing.

At one of our churches a good sanctified minister had sought the Blessing for a long time. He fasted eighty-two hours and the blessed Holy Ghost came in. No, no, I don't mean to say you will have to fast to get God willing to give you the blessing, but some, as Paul and Cornelius, will have to fast in order to get *self* ready to receive.

To paraphrase the exhortation of Joel, we may say: "Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; Gather the people, cry unto God, saying, save thy people, O God. Joy and gladness is cut off before our face. Let the ministers draw near with weeping. Come, lie all night in the altar, it may be God will be gracious and turn and leave us a blessing."

A precious mother talked to her son about his soul, but he would not listen with interest. He cared only for the things of this life. The more she talked to him, the more unconcerned he became. One day she decided to fast and pray for her lost boy. He noticed that she did not eat. He went on his way, wondering about mother, thinking about Jesus, heaven and hell. He became convicted of his sins. He came home for dinner but mother did not eat. Her heart was heavy. She was weak and suffering in body, but her words were heavy on her son's heart. There were tears in her eyes. He said, "Mother, aren't you going to eat any dinner?" With a broken voice she replied, "No, son, mother does not want any dinner." He looked up and saw tears running down her wrinkled cheeks. He did not want any dinner either; he pushed his plate back and bowed his head on the table. She came and laid her hand gently on his head and said, "Son, I cannot enjoy my food knowing that my boy is in sin and lost." This broke his hard heart, making it easy to hear and obey the tender voice of Jesus. A revival broke out in the home and spread to the church. By this dear mother's fasting and praying many souls were saved from hell.

There is certainly a reward for fasting.

HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST

(Continued from page 3)

come and go. They are not stable. The Bible says, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways," James 1:8.

What has happened to our life-changing gospel? Has it changed? No, but people have. They come to church only when they feel like it. They attend the revival meetings, but when the evangelist is gone, they somehow *evaporate*. Where are all the saved ones that our evangelists have led to Christ? We have sent reports that were as a *grocery list*. We reported the converts by the hundreds—all as a result of one meeting. My Friend, have you ever made a visit to the churches after the evangelists have left and the meetings are over? Yes, I have—to be honest—after my own meeting! Hundreds were saved, but only a handful were found at prayer meeting. I think that at such a moment we should be reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul when he

said: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . ." 1 Corinthians 15:58.

The Mind of Christ Gives Us Peace of Mind

Peace of mind at all times—in tragedy, calamity or trying moments, if we are in the Lord Jesus, and have the *mind of Christ*, we can have peace of mind. Have you ever heard the expression, "Why worry when you can pray?" It is so true.

Our minds are troubled when we are afraid. Fear is sometimes the result of guilt. Psychologists have done a great deal to ease the tension of guilt upon the mind. They have tried to channel minds into different routes. They have succeeded in making a person forget his problems, but they are never able to take the guilt away. Again we ask, "What can wash away our sins?" The answer will always be, "Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

The Word of God gives us peace. If we fill the cells of our minds with bad elements—as obscene literature, *the funnies* and so on—our minds react in the direction of those things, that is in a worldly and filthy direction. If we read the Word of God, we can have the weapon of peace, the answer to Satan, hidden in our minds. His Word gives us peace.

More than ever, the Church should realize its need of putting on the mind of Christ.

SPRING BEAUTY FOR ASHES

(Continued from page 7)

when we are sanctified. We may feed the flesh, human nature, or starve it. If we give in to the flesh and follow its desire, we feed it; and the more we feed the flesh the more it will grow. We, as Christians, may walk in the flesh or in the Spirit. If we walk in the Spirit, we become spiritual; but if we walk in the flesh, we become fleshly or carnal.

The injunction for us is to, "make no provision for the flesh." The word provision means, opportunity, preparation, arrangement, supply or something fixed beforehand. Do not make any room for the flesh. Be so taken up with the things of the Spirit that there will be no place left for the flesh.

Some people do not think they are *responsible* for what the flesh does. They are like the drunkard that was brought before the judge. He said, "Judge I couldn't help but get drunk; it wasn't me; it was just the old flesh." The judge gave his verdict in this manner, "Take his flesh and lock it in the cell, and his spirit can go where it wants to go." The fact is, we are inseparably connected with the flesh. We will stand before God body and soul.

Springtime brings forth the buds of the old tree. The old rose bush produces new roses. The old vine is the medium of the new grapes. The flesh, human nature, consecrated to God becomes the medium of God's service in this world.

Put on Christ

"But put ye on the Lord Jesus," Romans 13:14. It is not religion that is going to save us, but it is Christ in us. It is not giving up something, but it is putting on something. It is not subtraction, but it is multiplication. It is not taking something away from a person, but it is giving him something better. It is not the extracting

of acids from the soul, but it is the pouring of heaven's honey into the soul. It is not the taking of life, but it is the giving of life. It is not the drawing of some substance from the soul, but is the addition of a new ingredient.

The caterpillar lives in his cocoon all winter, but, when the warm rays of the spring break forth on him, a transformation takes place. It has been found, through microscopic examination, that within the body of the caterpillar there is a distinct but undeveloped butterfly. When a person is born again, there is a new nature

in him that must be developed. As the butterfly develops, the caterpillar body must be put off; the crawling, earthly nature gives place to the new and higher life within. Then comes the day when the butterfly leaves the cocoon and sails through the sky—from bondage to freedom.

As Nature puts on her new coat, let us put on the attributes of Christ—love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. Let us live in Christ, walk in Christ and shine for Him in this world. Amen.



Ten Saved at Paw Creek

PAW CREEK, N. C.—Recently, we had a wonderful revival conducted by Leon Worley of Dallas, North Carolina. Ten testified to being saved, 2 were sanctified, and 1 received the Holy Ghost. Our church was greatly blessed through the ministry of Brother Worley. Any church would do well to use this man of God.—Roy Ray, Pastor.

Second Coming of Christ Preached

INDIANAPOLIS (WEST SIDE), Ind.—We have just had a wonderful four weeks' revival with Brother J. E. Smeltzer of Paducah, Kentucky, as the evangelist. Twenty were saved, 20 sanctified, a good number filled with the Holy Ghost, and several added to the Church. The church was greatly blessed by the good gospel preaching on the second coming of the Lord. The good sermons were greatly appreciated by all and helped us to see our need of being ready for the Lord's soon coming. We certainly appreciate Brother Smeltzer's ministry and labor with us.—James D. Combs, Pastor.

Revival Extended Because of Blessings

SHANNON, Ga.—Recently, we had a wonderful revival conducted by Brother and Sister Bobby Daugherty of Hartwell, Georgia. Several were saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost, and two were added to the Church. The Lord met with us in every service and the power of God was manifested in a marvelous way. The interest was great among the members and friends of the church. The revival was scheduled to close on Sunday night after running for two weeks, but the Lord blessed in such a way that it continued on through the third week. Anyone desiring consecrated evangelists should secure Brother and Sister Daugherty. They have certainly dedicated their services to God. They are just out of Lee College and will bless any church with their preaching and singing, for they are also talented musicians. This revival will long live in the hearts of each person who attended.—Mrs. D. E. Kilby.

Pastor Conducts Successful Revival

JACKSONVILLE, Ala.—We thank and praise God for the wonderful revival we had conducted by our good pastor, Brother Joe James. Quite a number were saved, 7 were sanctified, 6 were filled with the Holy Ghost, and 10 were added to the Church. The services were well attended, and the interest was unusual night after night. The sweet spirit of the Lord came down and blessed our souls and there were manifestations of the Spirit in such a way that the altar would fill without any preaching. It was particularly thrilling to see our young people moved by the soul-stirring messages which came forth by the great anointing power of God. This revival has built up the church spiritually. I am sure eternity alone will reveal all the good done in this meeting. Our Sunday School is growing and we have good music and singing. We have a "go ye" in our souls and a deeper consecration for greater service to God and His church.—Mrs. Lovie Mosteller.

Called "Greatest Revival Ever"

BIG CREEK, Ky.—About three weeks ago we had the greatest revival that we have ever had, with Brother J. P. Morgan of Dressing Church of God as the evangelist. The revival lasted ten weeks with 89 saved, 21 filled with the Holy Ghost, 41 baptized in water, and 15 added to the Church. This revival was a great help to our church. We surely do appreciate Brother Morgan. He has been a blessing to our church. Our pastor is Brother Jack Minard.—Elbert Smallwood, Clerk.

Revival Helps Church to Grow

HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.—We report victory in Christ at Hendersonville. We, recently, had a revival conducted by Brother F. H. Collier. Eleven were saved, 10 sanctified, 8 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 10 added to the Church. We are progressing daily under the leadership of our pastor, Brother J. S. Leonard, and his wife.

Our Sunday School attendance has more than doubled last year's attendance. Our Y.P.E. also has grown. Pray for us that we may continue to grow in the power of the Lord.—Wilma Howard.

Outstanding Revival at Lemmon

LEMMON, S. Dak.—January 29 to February 19 is a period that will long be remembered as one of the important periods in the history of the Lemmon, South Dakota, Church of God. For some time, a hunger for closer fellowship with the Lord had been in evidence. This had been reflected by the preaching of the pastor, Brother Glyndon Logsdon, and by the earnest testimony and prayers of the people. The Lord will ever be ready to honor the soul's sincere desire to learn of Him. On January 29, Brother David Lykens, pastor of the Church of God at Williamsburg, Pennsylvania, began what was planned to be a two-weeks' revival campaign. Sister Lykens and their daughter, Reta Lou, assisted very ably with special music and fine choruses for both children and adults. An orchestra of fourteen young musicians of the church, including Brother and Sister Lykens, also assisted in the splendid song services. Under the anointing of the Lord, the Holy Spirit and the soon coming of our Saviour were preached with such fervor that the power soon fell—yes, literally rained upon the people. God blessed so abundantly that the revival was continued another week. The prayer room of the Lemmon Church will be an especially hallowed spot to many. At least fifteen were baptized with the precious Holy Spirit. Many were re-filled, and everyone was greatly blessed during this wonderful time. Six have joined the Church and more have signified their intention of joining in the near future. The spirit of the revival lingers on—so evident in the marked reluctance of people to leave the church after services are dismissed. The time is getting very short but the door is still open. God is still pouring out His Spirit—Praise His name! May we work harder than ever for lost souls and be found ready and eagerly awaiting His wonderful appearing.—Alvin Barth.

reports



Above is a view of the choir of the Rossville Church of God along with the trustees and councilors of the church, which are as follows: First row: Vergil T. Kerley, Johnnie Hacker and Vestal Vickers. Second row: Leslie E. Wooten, Grady Harris, J. D. Silver, Alton Boren, Cecil Wooten, T. F. Harper, (Pastor), C. J. Polivka, (Clerk), Clyde Thomas, E. G. Haynes, and Mark Silver.

We would like to sound a note of praise from the Rossville Church of God for all the wonderful blessings of the Lord that have been showered upon us, and we would like to give a brief history of the church and its progress.

During the month of August, 1947, I received the experience of the new birth in a revival conducted by Brother B. Godsey at the Rossville, Georgia, Church of God. Brother Hoyt Odom was the pastor at that time. I immediately went to Brother Odom and told him of my desire to join the Church of God. The members of the Rossville Church of God gave my husband and me the right hand of fellowship. That fellowship has been wonderful through these past eight years. I received my sanctification and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost after Brother Tommie Harper came to us as pastor eight years ago (January, 1948). Brother Harper and family came to our church from Hazlehurst, Georgia. He had been on the Hazlehurst district for seven years; three years had been spent at Bridgeford and four years at Hazlehurst. Since 1948, the church has gained in every department and has broken its previous records while establishing many new records.

We appreciate the ministry of Brother and Sister Harper. We feel that they have given us the best years of their lives. They have ministered to the congregation of the church both spiritually and materially. Not only during the Christmas season have they given baskets of food, as is the custom of the churches, but only a few days ago a man stood in the church and gave testimony that Brother Harper had placed a week's supply of food in his kitchen that week because he did not have regular work and his children were in need. They have always come to our assistance when we were in need. Many times we have called upon them to come to our home to pray for us and our children when we were ill. God answered prayer and through their prayers we have been healed many times.

God has blessed us bountifully in all phases of our church work. We are thankful to God that the church has been able, in spite of all the controversy that has been in Chattanooga, to learn how to depend upon God more and to see the handwork of God wrought in many ways. Although we have lost some, the Lord has helped us to retain the faithful and to increase our membership.

Brother Harper is not the man to claim the credit for all the victories in the battles fought; but he gives to God and the wonderful people of the church the credit due them. He has proved to the church that he is not a man to run, but one that will stand for the Church of God and its teachings, though doing so may bring hurt to the flesh but glory and victory to the Church.

Our Y.P.E. services have proved to be a wonderful inspiration to the youth of our church who in this day, especially, need encouragement to stand up for God and His cause. Since they are our Church of tomorrow, they need first place in all our important undertakings. The Y.P.E. has taken upon itself the responsibility of furnishing the parsonage with a Youngstown Kitchen complete with sink and cabinets. It assisted, financially, in the building of our Sunday School rooms in the new church, and now it is planning to furnish the parsonage living room and dining room with wall-to-wall carpeting.

Elizabeth and Barbara Harper are precious young girls. Elizabeth is our church pianist and is very active in Y.P.E. We love them very much and their devotion to the Church of God is a fine example and inspiration to the wonderful group of young people we have in our church.

For a number of years, our church was known as the West Gordon Avenue Church of God. This church was remodeled outside and redecorated inside and new pews were bought which gave added comfort and beauty to the church. The Lord blessed, and we soon realized that we were not able to take care of the people as they came. We then began to look for ways to meet the demands that were facing the church. As there was no way for us to expand in our present location, we began scouting to find a new location.

In 1951, we purchased three lots at 309 Andrews St., Rossville, which included a 12-room house. This was purchased for \$13,500 and in April, 1951, the pastor and family moved into the new parsonage. The Lord blessed, and the church was able to pay our debt in 18 months. We then started our plans for a new church. This seemed to be an impossibility at that time because of buying restrictions on materials. However, after much prayer, fasting and work by the pastor and faithful loyal members of the church as well as our good friends and business acquaintances, the Lord blessed us with a beautiful brick edifice that is now known as the Rossville Church of God. On Mother's Day, 1954, we had our dedication services and had a wonderful time rejoicing in the Lord. Now we are much closer to the bus lines and just a few blocks from the heart of town.

This new church has an audito-

rium that is 42 feet by 80 feet and finished with white plastered walls with 12 by 12 inch celotex squares on an arched ceiling. There is pine paneling around the choir; the floors are of white oak, and the pews are of white pine. We have a blond mahogany piano which matches the Bible stand, flower stands and the pews. All this is finished in natural finish. The maroon rug in the church was a gift of a local rug manufacturer.

We have a full basement with 18 classrooms, switch room, and so forth. The overall measurement is 42 feet by 112 feet, and the church has been valued at \$80,000 by the Clift Real Estate Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Recently, the church bought three additional lots below the church which gives it a full block and brings our value on parsonage and church property \$95,480. We truly praise God for all the progress made, and we appreciate everything that has been done toward making all this possible. The church is beginning its ninth year with Brother Harper and has been blessed greatly. These past two years have been two of our best years yet. To God be all the glory!

We are thankful for our beautiful new church building, but, most of all, we are thankful for the presence of the Holy Ghost with great power unto salvation, healings, blessings untold, and many precious promises. Praise the wonderful name of Jesus! To me, there is nothing to compare with the loveliness of a message direct from heaven, spoken by the Holy Ghost with the interpretation of the same. I do believe that the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit that the Apostle Paul spoke of in 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 are in the Church of God and that it is God's will that there be a Church of God in every city, town, and village. I want to be a blessing to my church. Pray for me.—Mrs. Gladliola Polivka.

— — — New Mission Blessed of God

COCONUT GROVE, Fla.—I thank the Lord for complete salvation. Some time ago while reading the *Evangel* I saw Brother Virgil Oakley's notice that he was offering his service in praying for anyone who requested prayer. I wrote him requesting prayer for the mission work of the Church of God at Coconut Grove. The Lord had laid it upon the hearts of my wife and me to go into this place. Through much suffering, God saved three souls; but within a short space of time two of them turned back into sin leaving only one sister, my wife, and me. Thanks be to God, He answered prayer. I received a letter from Brother Virgil stating how he had prayed for us and that God was going to bless us for he had felt the victory touch. The Spirit gave him a Scripture for me to read which was very encouraging. Within three months, five souls were added to the Church, and our membership reached a total of fourteen within a short space of time. We do thank the Lord. We desire the prayers of everyone.—Wm. Carswell.

Each Department at Work

WARRENTON, N. C.—We would like to praise God for the way He is blessing the church at Warrenton. First of all, I want to thank Him for our good pastor, Brother J. W. Riggs, and other things. Also, the Sunday School helped, and before the year was out the last dollar had been paid and the church was completely out of debt. In addition to helping pay off the note, the Y.P.E. bought a nice water heater for the parsonage and an electric guitar and amplifier for the church. We have a wonderful group

of young people and they are on fire for God. We have just closed the best revival the church has had in many years. Fourteen were saved, 11 sanctified, 11 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 12 added to the Church. Sister Mavis Bridges and her co-worker, Betty Dill, were the evangelists. Sister Bridges preached the old-time gospel under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. She is a wonderful preacher and worker and will be a blessing to any church. We thank God for sending her our way. Surely the Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad.—Flossie Hilton, Clerk.



Church Blessed With New Building

ELYRIA, Ohio—Almost four years ago we accepted this work which had been previously organized by Brother Walker Thompson who pastored the work four months. We worshiped wherever we could get a building, and we could not seem to get anything that we wanted. Buildings were scarce and rent was high. We worshiped in the Amvets' hall for almost two years. We could only have services on Wednesday evening, Sunday morning, and Sunday evening, yet we paid sixty-five dollars a month for it. Much prayer for a place of worship went up. God heard and answered! We had already purchased two lots shortly after we accepted the church and intended to build, but it was rather hard to raise money with such a few services. It took everything we could get to keep up the general expenses of the church and intended to build, but it was rather hard to raise money with such a few services. It took everything we could get to keep up the general expenses of the church as well as to cooperate with the program of the State and General Headquarters. We always made it, by the help of God, and raised money for all departments. Everything seemed to be on the increase, in spite of limited services.

We are happy that, instead of having to build, we purchased the building pictured above which was former-

ly used by a Jewish congregation, as you can see by the Star of David on the building. Later a Church of God emblem will be put there. We sold our lots to help with the down payment. Our building cost us \$24,500. Several other denominations were pleading for it, but God favored us. On October 15, 1955, we had our first service in the new building; and, on October 23, we had our dedication services. Brother J. H. Walker, our State Overseer, was the guest speaker. We were also honored by having the mayor of our city to speak for us. Brother Walker spoke on the wonderful name of Jesus, since he felt it had been little, if ever mentioned by the former congregation. The progress of the church is still on the forward move. We have reached an attendance of 106 in Sunday School, and our tithes have increased. Several have been saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, and added to the Church. We had only 14 members at the beginning, but we now have 36 with several other prospects.

The auditorium of the church has a seating capacity of approximately 300. It has a full-size basement with all conveniences, Sunday School rooms and so forth. We feel there are great things in store for the Elyria Church of God. Pray for us.—Mrs. Rose Short, Pastor.

God Heals Hopeless Alcoholic



CHILDERSBURG, Ala.—Isalah 59:1, "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it can not save, neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." Sinners I want you to read this verse over and over again, and read what God can do. Just a little over a year ago, I was a hopeless alcoholic. I had tried to stop drinking time and time again, but it looked hopeless. I have stayed away from home for days and my family did not know where I was. I did not do this because I wanted to, but the craving of drink had gotten me so that I had to. I have suffered heartaches, sorrow and shame because I could not leave whisky alone. Preachers have talked to me and people have prayed many prayers. My mother and sisters have prayed for my deliverance. I loved them and wanted to stop but couldn't. I have a good mother, daddy, and sisters. I've never seen them take a drink, so you see it was not my home life that caused me to be an alcoholic. I started drinking when I was seventeen and I will be thirty-six May 9. I have lived a drunkard's life since I was seventeen. Many times, I have been away from home and come to myself not knowing where I was. I have sobered up, and found myself with people that I did not even know and did not know how I had gotten there. I would drink anything I could get, and I had gotten so that I could not hold a cup in my hands because I shook so much. I would lie in bed at night, but I could not sleep because I was afraid. I could see and hear things in the dark. I guess you are wondering why I did not quit. It's a simple answer—I couldn't!

I have been married twice. I had the first drink with my first husband when I was seventeen. If I had known

then what I do now, I would never have taken that first drink. That first drink ruined my life. It brought me to where I did not care what happened. I lost all self-respect. I cried many nights when I should have been sleeping. No one could know or understand what I went through.

My second husband was an alcoholic too. I would not have married him if he had not been one. I have known times that, when we were sober, we were not able to hand each other a drink of water. He worked and made good money on the days he was able to work. We bought whisky when we did not have enough food for the week. I have eaten dry crackers for days at a time. The second marriage did not work out, either. I wish I could tell you the whole story, but I will have to cut it short.

My father had a stroke and was helpless for about six weeks before I came home to stay. After coming to live with my parents, I worked for a year as well as I could, but I was still drinking. I tried, in every way, to quit. Mother and daddy are old and daddy's being helpless, as he is, made me try harder than ever to stop. I knew there was no hope ever to quit.

The pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister Barrett, of the Church of God in Childersburg, started visiting our home. He came in one morning and found me drinking. I was trying to sober up and just taking a little drink now and then. I was sitting in a rocker with shorts on and my hair had not been combed for days. I did not know Brother Barrett was in the house until he entered the room. I did not know what had come over me; it seemed that I was sorry that he had found me like that. I tried to tell him that I was sorry that he had seen me, and I will never forget what he said to me. He said, "Just be glad that it was me instead of the Lord, Sister." I did not know why I was so ashamed. I know now that God touched my heart. After Brother Barrett left, it seemed that I could not forget his words. The next time he came to the house, he brought Sister Barrett with him. I heard mother tell them to come in, so I ran and hid. I could not face them, for I did not know what would happen. So I hid and listened to the talk. I thought they would really give me a scolding. The next time they came, I went in, but no one said a word to me about the way I was doing. They treated me just as they would anyone else. They did not act as if they were better than I.

Sister Barrett started holding prayer meetings at the house. She hugged me and said she loved me. Not once did she scold me or make me feel that I was left out. The church people treated me in the same way at the prayer meetings. We had good services, and



I began enjoying them and believing that maybe God would help me if I would ask Him. Still I could not bring myself to go to church, for I was ashamed. Some time later, I went to visit my sister in Talladega, Alabama. One night, when they had gone to bed and I was in my room, I took the Bible down. I will never forget what I read. It was the Sermon on the Mount and how Jesus taught the people. As I read all those good things that Jesus had promised, I asked him to please help me for I could not help myself. I asked him to have mercy on me and to forgive me of my sins. I told him that I wanted to live for him and to do the things that would be pleasing to Him. I asked him to please stop my craving for drink and save my soul. He saved me and delivered me; He also gave me the Holy Ghost one night at church a few weeks later.

I cannot seem to praise the Lord enough. I go about my work telling people what Jesus has done for me. He wants me to tell sinners that His arm is not shortened that it cannot save, neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear. Come unto Him, Sinner, and He will give you rest. He will give you peace in your soul that you have never known before. Won't you ask Him now as you read this? He will save you if only you ask Him. There is nothing that is too hard for God. If there is any way I can help you to find Jesus, I will be glad to help. The only thing I want in life is to help others find Christ as others have helped me. I pray that this testimony will be a blessing to someone. My purpose in writing this is that God may be glorified and that it may help others to avoid making the mistake that I made. I love Him and praise Him with all my heart.—Hazel Christian. Attested by D. L. Barrett, Pastor.

Completely Healed of Epilepsy

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill.—I have been afflicted with epilepsy nearly all of my life. I will soon be 40 years old. My healing took place at a little park where I am keeper of the grounds. Dreadful feelings would hover over me and on this particular morning I felt as if I were going to have a spell. I began to look up to the Lord saying, "Please don't let me have one of those spells, good Lord!" A few minutes afterward I began to say, "Lord, I've asked you to protect me, now I'm going to quit worrying about it." I went on doing my work and I didn't have any spells that day. Several times since that day I have been tempted, but I just look up and start calling on God. It is not long until those feelings are gone and I am all right. I am completely healed of epilepsy! I praise the Lord that He saw fit to heal me of this. Praise and glory be to our Lord Jesus Christ forever!—Charles Haggard.



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Like a Mighty Army

The following article was published in the December, 1955 issue of "Pentecost," a magazine published at the request of the World Conference of Pentecostal Churches.

We do not usually announce books in this magazine, for good and obvious reasons, but exception may justly be made for official histories of the Pentecostal Movement, or denomination within the Movement.

In LIKE A MIGHTY ARMY (Church of God Publishing House, Cleveland, Tennessee: \$5.00) Charles W. Conn has written a reliable record of one of the largest denominations associated with the Pentecostal Revival. The scholarly way in which he has fulfilled his task is refreshing. The story begins in 1886, and is traced from tiny beginnings on the Tennessee-North Carolina border, to a Church that had 10,000 delegates at its last General Assembly, gathered from five continents. The years of pioneering, grim enough in some details, contained much in common with all revival movements, but for that very reason they underline the unity of the body of Christ and particularly the unity of the Spirit. The Church of God is an integral part of the one worldwide Pentecostal Revival. It is a pleasure to commend this well-bound volume for the shelves of any library. It concludes with an unusually full set of Appendices, containing Constitutional Minutes, lists of offices since 1909, and much other data.

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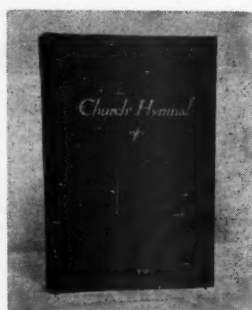
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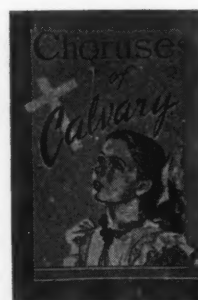
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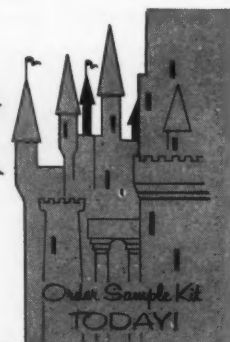
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